

Written Testimony of Janet Bellamy, Ashford Clean Energy Task Force
Submitted to the Energy and Technology Committee on SB 334 Minor Revisions
to the Energy and Technology Related Statutes
March 10, 2016

To Senator Doyle, Representative Reed and other members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

My name is Janet Bellamy; I am a resident of Ashford and a member of the Ashford Clean Energy Task Force. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 334, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Energy and Technology Related Statutes.

Connecticut should make the promise of solar power for a majority of residents and businesses possible by allowing the creation of “shared solar” facilities. Massachusetts, Colorado, California and other leading solar states make it easy for groups of users to develop solar installations. There have been many success stories from shared solar installations, including Rutland, VT to the north of Connecticut.

Allowing shared clean energy programs would lower electricity costs for residents, create jobs, and bring more private investments to Connecticut, as they have in other states. I have been unable to install solar on my house and look forward to participating in a shared solar system in the future.

It would also aid the state in meeting its own energy policy goal of diversifying the state’s energy mix and increasing the amount of electricity generated by clean energy sources.

SB 334 would make needed revisions in the legislation to create a shared solar pilot program, allowing that program to move forward. While I do not believe that a pilot program is necessary given the successful programs in other states, this bill would at least get things moving and avoid further delay.

I urge the CT General Assembly to review this situation and take concerted steps to approve solar for all, this session.

Sincerely,
Janet Bellamy
Ashford, CT